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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D.C. 20505

AH. DDI 84-04711
ER 84-6019/1

15 August 1984

DDI 84-0086/1
ER 84-611

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: DESIST

Jim:

1. I have looked into your concern on not being able to connect DESIST to your many military commands. It is not a question of software as you suggested but rather one of dedicated communications lines.

2. According to the DESIST people the DESIST communications requirements were defined and vetted with all DESIST users in the spring of 1983 and at that time it was noted that, for security reasons, dedicated communications links would be required between the DESIST computer at the user terminal locations. Later on DIA inquired as to the permissibility of tying DESIST to the network communications you spoke of. After a review by the security folks it was denied and DIA so advised.

3. In February of this year DIA--through the Counterterrorism Branch of its Office of Security--asked us again to look at using an existing DIA network, specifically the Intelligence Data Handling System Communications (IDHSC-2) packet-switched network. After a series of meetings and exchange of information, the Information System Security Group (ISSG), Office of Security ruled last month that the IDHSC-2 network could not be used for DESIST. In its decision ISSG cited the risk that Agency information could be compromised by the misrouting of data to unauthorized users.

4. During these same exchanges the use of the Defense Intelligence Information System Network (DODIIS) was also discussed. ISSG is of the opinion that its use is feasible only when the DNSIX network front end processor--which will satisfy the security requirements--becomes available.

5. If you do decide to use the DODIIS when DNSIX is available it will be necessary to make some protocol changes to the existing DESIST software as well as add some hardware that will make such a linkage possible.

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√John N. McMahon

DCI
EXEC
REG

Distr
Orig - Addressee
  2 - DDCI
  1 - DDI
  1 - OGI/DDI
  1 - ER File
  1 - D/OS
  1 - D/ODP

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